

Oahe Congregational Mission
Rigg's Ranch, Pierre, South Dakota

HABS No. SD-7

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33-PIER.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Missouri River Basin Historical Studies
Region Two Office
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska

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Owners- Mr. Lawrence Riggs, et al.

Date of Erection- 1877. Bell installed in 1879. Organ in 1900.

Architect- Not known. Has little interest architecturally.

Builder- Probably the same man who built a house for Rev. Thomas Riggs, the missionary, and his wife. Builder may have come from nearby Fort Sully.

Present Condition- Very good. Roof appears to have been applied only five or six years ago. Weatherboarding is tight and painted white, as usual among Congregational churches in the rural districts. Leaks in the roof have left ugly marks on the tongue and groove ceiling and walls, especially on the north side.

Materials of Construction- Foundation of granite boulders, picked up in the fields surrounding the church. Walls of frame construction, with weatherboarding outside, and tongue and groove pine inside. Walls and ceiling are stained and varnished. There are no pews, but school benches serve for seats. There is a small pulpit of carved walnut on the slightly raised platform at the front of the building, and the organ is placed there too. The one door is alongside the platform, so that late-comers face the audience.

Other Existing Records- The Organ is a two-manual instrument, of Mason & Hamlin make, and the case is of solid walnut, in excellent design. It probably dates from the late 1850's; and according to Mr. Lawrence Riggs, was sent to Oahe Mission in 1900 from an Eastern church which had acquired a new pipe organ. The two-manual reed organs were rare, and this instrument should be a museum because the isolated country churches are too often a target for lightning.

Work planned and accomplished as a phase of the Missouri River Basin historical salvage program by the History Division, Region Two Office, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska.

Project supervised by Regional
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Technical data by Historian
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Field work performed under
the direction of Architect
John A. Bryan, 1952